



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 5 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
5 JULY 1968

1. Brazil

The question of how to handle student-led unrest is dividing the armed forces. Some key military figures are urging Costa e Silva to make cabinet changes and to take a harder line against any further disorders. Others oppose repression and want educational and social reforms.

Costa e Silva has a record of avoiding such tough decisions, and whether the prospect of a further loss of military support will persuade him to act is problematic. He maintains his narrow view of the country's problems, seeing them as products of a "vast, subversive plot," rather than of any ineptitude on the part of his administration.

2. Uruguay

The Communists evidently are determined to continue their campaign of protests and strikes, and the next week or two may be critical for the Pacheco government.

3. Soviet Union

Brezhnev made another speech yesterday attacking the West. Again, it was primarily for the benefit of fellow Communists, delivered this time to a Soviet national teachers congress. The troubles of Western society were emphasized to point up his warning to Soviet artists and educators that they must beware of efforts to subvert their faith in Communism.

4. Czechoslovakia

Soviet troops which participated in the Warsaw Pact exercise are still in Czechoslovakia, and there are no signs that they are preparing to withdraw. Prague continues to maintain, however, that all foreign troops will leave.

5. Cuba

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6. Egypt-Israel

McGeorge Bundy came away from a meeting with Nasir on Wednesday with the impression that there is no prospect for early improvement in the Middle East situation. On the Arab refugee problem, Nasir stressed that Egypt was prepared to accept compensation and repatriation as a solution--to which Bundy replied that repatriation was not now a practical alternative.

Nasir said his reason for linking the Suez Canal and refugee questions was that until there was a solution to the Palestine problem, he could not allow Israeli flags to pass through heavily populated areas of the canal. He had already told Jarring he was prepared to permit transit by Israeli cargoes.

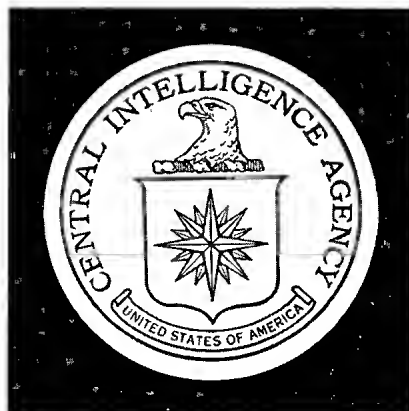
Bundy told Nasir his remarks had indicated an underlying belief that no political solution was in sight. Nasir replied, "Then there is only one other solution."

7. Sierra Leone

Rumors have swept Freetown that an American-Belgian mercenary force is about to invade the country. Prime Minister Stevens has given credence to them over the radio and has deployed troops to strategic points. Wide acceptance of these rumors will encourage leftist elements around Stevens to step up their anti-US activities. The arrival of a new Peace Corps contingent has been delayed at Stevens' request for "security reasons."

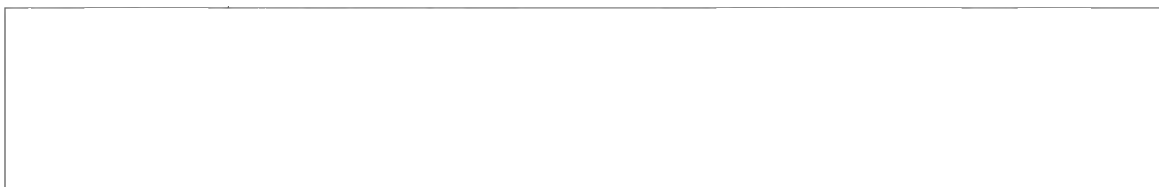
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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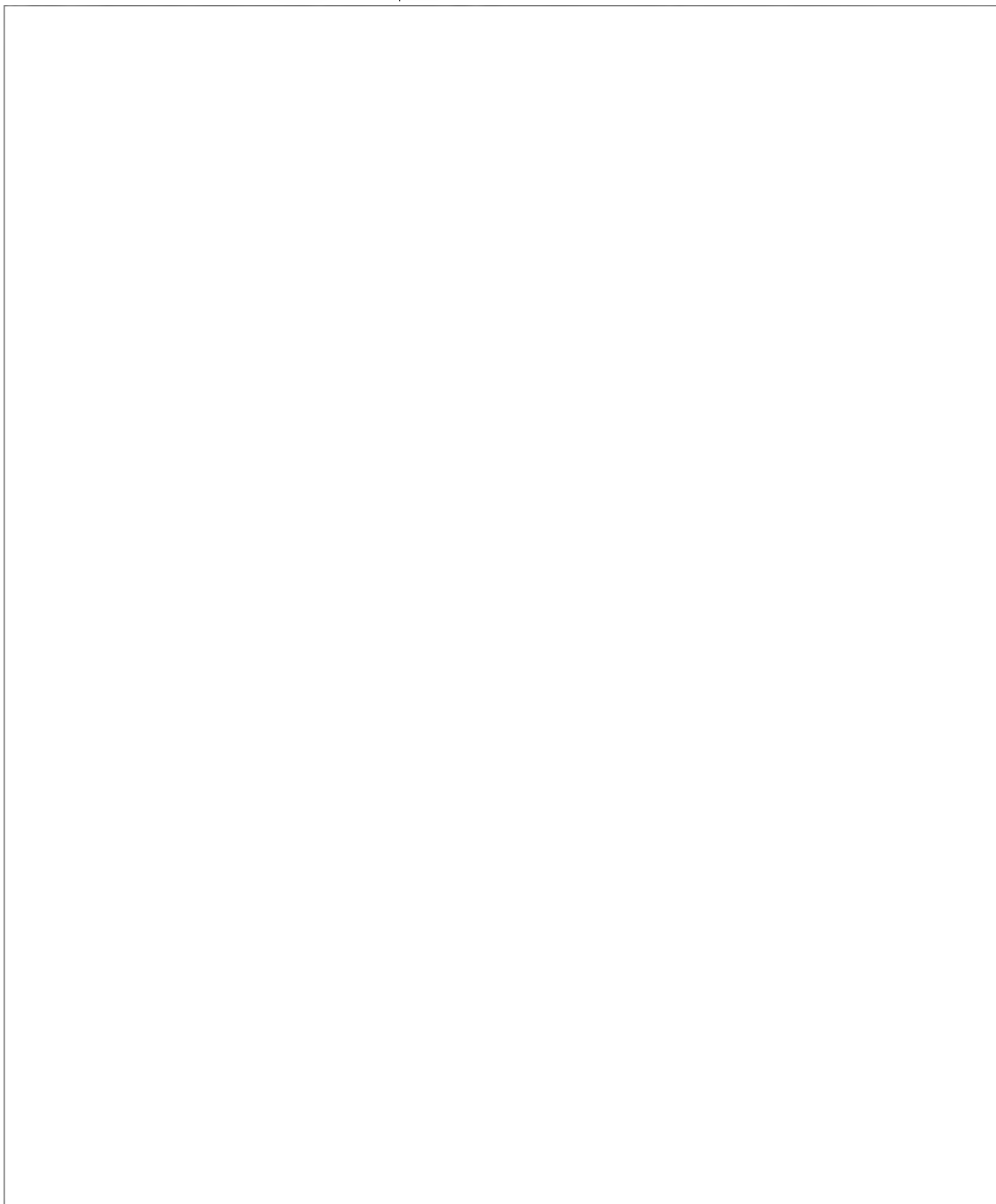
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5 July 1968

**Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only**

5 July 1968

I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION



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Morale: [redacted] since the beginning of the Viet Cong - North Vietnamese offensive in the South and the letup in US bombing, there has been an air of celebration among the people of North Vietnam. The people believe not only that the war will be over soon but that it will be a definite victory for the North.

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Hanoi on Khe Sanh Withdrawal: Hanoi's army newspaper yesterday asserted that US Marines at Khe Sanh are trying to evacuate the area, but that they "cannot do it" because of continued attacks by Communist forces. The paper calls the withdrawal a "shameful defeat" for US military commanders and says this course was forced on them by Communist battlefield successes. The party daily Nhan Dan ran a similar item yesterday.

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